

**METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR DETECTION  
AND DIAGNOSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

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**ABSTRACT**

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Methods and compositions for the detection and diagnosis of infectious diseases are provided. In particular, efficient and sensitive methods and compositions for the detection of active mycobacterial disease are provided for distinguishing between individuals having active disease, and individuals who have been immunologically exposed, such as those infected with a mycobacterium but are without active disease, or those who have been vaccinated with BCG. The methods comprise topical application of antigen compositions for transdermal delivery.

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